

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
Meeting Minutes
Teleconference
January 23, 2007

Members Attending

Brett Kirkpatrick
Nick Hill
Ken Chipchase
Ron Matik
James Sherwood
Kevin Severns
Damon Corey
John Eliot
Robert LoBue

CDFA Representatives

Nate Dechoretz
Ed Williams
Liz Houser
Rick Jensen
Kevin Masuhara
Susan Shelton
Vic Tolomeo

Interested Parties

San Diego County
Riverside County
Tulare County
Ventura County
Fresno County
Kern County
Santa Clara County
CA Citrus Mutual

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Chairman Brett Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Mr. Kevin Masuhara called roll. A quorum was established.

ITEM 2: AMENDMENTS TO COUNTY CONTRACTS FOR FREEZE INSPECTION

Mr. Masuhara reviewed the county freeze contract proposals with the committee. He explained counties recommend expending the remainder of current maturity contracts before utilizing additional freeze money. Current and proposed contracts for maturity and freeze would total \$1,344,194. Counties proposed the following for additional freeze inspections:

| | Hours | Amount |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tulare | 5,340 | \$ 267,260 |
| Fresno | 4,440 | 221,607 |
| Kern | 5,450 | 239,081 |
| Ventura | 600 | 22,315 |
| Riverside | 1,382 | 82,146 |
| San Bernardino | No additional hours or money needed | |
| Santa Clara | 262 | <u>17,952</u> |
| | | \$ 850,361 Total Additional |

A discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the freeze contracts. The committee stated freeze inspections may be needed through the Valencia season, and asked if the

amounts were enough to cover that possibility. Ventura County stated they calculated through March, so they may not have enough to carry through Valencia harvest. All other counties forecasted expenses through various months. However, all counties except Ventura stated the numbers were based on a worse case scenario and expect the proposed amounts will last the entire season.

Mr. James Sherwood asked how the counties determine the amounts for freeze expenses. Proposals are based on the workload per county, employee hours needed, travel, etc. Mr. Kirkpatrick reminded the committee and CDFA that all expense calculations were going to be examined in detail. Mr. Nate Dechoretz stated a detailed fiscal display of the freeze contracts would be provided at the next meeting. CDFA will compile bi-weekly reports from the counties regarding freeze inspection results and costs. These reports will also be shared with the committee.

MOTION: Mr. Kevin Severns moved to convene a meeting of CCAC in February for program and contract updates. Mr. Ron Matik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Nick Hill moved to accept the county freeze inspection contracts as submitted. Mr. Matik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

California Citrus Mutual had a conference call earlier this morning with citrus producing counties regarding the freeze damage. The following damage assessments were shared:

- Navel oranges lost 40,000,000 cartons, a 75 percent loss.
- Valencia oranges lost 20,000,000 cartons, an 80 percent loss.
- Lemons lost 7,600,000 cartons, an 80 percent loss in District 1 and a 20 percent loss in District 2.
- Mandarin varieties lost 15,000,000 cartons.

Representatives from the counties present reported rejections for freeze damage have been minimal. However, damage is increasingly more prevalent and expected to rise. All counties reported excellent compliance with the voluntary hold order.

Mr. Kirkpatrick asked for clarification on who sets Date A for orange freeze and how it is set. Mr. Masuhara stated CDFA sets Date A from the results of segment cut inspections. Date B must be set no later than 21 days after Date A, then only a transverse cut inspection can be used.

ITEM 3: CONTINUE VALENCIA CROP SURVEY WORK

The committee was asked if they wish to cease the current orange crop survey work. Mr. Vic Tolomeo explained only typical years are used in the forecast model. As this is a year with extensive freeze damage, it would be excluded from the model. He also stated \$15,000 has currently been spent and \$60,000 would be needed to finish.

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood moved to discontinue the orange crop survey work. Mr. Severns seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kevin Masuhara, Program Supervisor
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services

KM/ss